

Hello, my name is Doris Boiczuk and I am a parent from the Explorations Charter School. Thank You for listening to my testimony. I'm here to express my extreme gratitude for finding the Explorations Charter School. I drive my son a 45 minute distance to and from this school daily despite the fact that we live in an affluent town that has a public school system with a stellar reputation.

My son began his education in this school district but developed signs of stress. At an early age it was discovered that he had special needs due to a rare neurological disorder. Testing that revealed a high IQ, mild learning needs, and social anxiety.

After much struggle including hiring a child advocate, an Educational attorney, and an educational consultant at our expense, an IEP was implemented to address his learning differences. Despite hard work and much effort from the team it failed. Things only grew worse and resulted in him being outplaced in a totally unsuitable and unacceptable environment. At the age of 13, his options grew slim and at the time it was best to homeschool. Although less traumatic he deserved better and I grew concerned on how to bridge the gap toward college.

Thankfully we found Explorations. A small and supportive school. He entered the school in 11th grade. They were willing and able to meet his needs. In the 2 short years he's been there, he went from remedial math to a gifted math class. A student that had trouble writing, now has improved so dramatically that he is in an Honors English class as well. His test scores improved dramatically. He achieved very high SAT scores. Most importantly, the student that first walked through their doors socially stiff now has friends, is active in student government and is a member of a Robotics team.

He applied to Trinity, Uconn and the University of Hartford. While he has yet to hear from Trinity and Uconn, he has been accepted into the Honors Engineering program at the University of Hartford and has received a Merit-based scholarship.

Please support the governor's proposal to increase charter funding. It is the very least they deserve.

Thank you.